

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OIC-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02

EURE-00 /106 W

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P R 011343Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8302

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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MASERU FOR SCHAUFLE

GENEVA FOR WISNER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR' RH, UK

SUBJECT: FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE

THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY BRIDGET BLOOM APPEARED IN THE
DECEMBER 1 EDITION OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES UNDER THE
TITLE, "ENTRY OF GUERRILLA FACTION WILL CHALLENGE
NATIONALIST LEADERS".

BEGIN TEXT: THE MOST INTERESTING NEWS TO HAVE COME OUT
OF SOUTHERN AFRICA SINCE THE CONFERENCE ON RHODESIA

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CONVENED NEARLY FIVE WEEKS AGO IS THAT THE ZIMBABWE

LIBERATION ARMY IS TO SEND AN INDEPENDENT DELEGATION TO THE GENEVA MEETING.

DELEGATES TO THE CONFERENCE WERE ANXIOUSLY AWAITING DETAILS OF PRECISELY WHO WOULD REPRESENT THE MOZAMBIQUE-BASED GUERRILLAS, AND WHEN THEY WOULD ARRIVE IN GENEVA. FEW DOUBTED THAT THEIR EFFECT ON THE GENEVA CONFERENCE, AND ON THE FOUR BLACK AND ONE WHITE DELEGATIONS ASSEMBLED THERE, COULD BE PROFOUND.

THE GENEVA CONFERENCE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONVENED AT ALL HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INCREASINGLY BITTER GUERRILLA WAR NOW RAGING IN RHODESIA. FEW OUTSIDE OBSERVERS KNOW PRECISELY WHAT--OR WHO--ZIPA IS. MOST AGREE THAT IT IS THE BODY WHICH BEST REPRESENTS THE MOZAMBIQUE FIGHTERS. DESPITE INCREASING INCURSIONS FROM ZAMBIA AND BOTSWANA, IT IS THE MOZAMBIQUE-BASED GUERRILLAS WHO ARE CURRENTLY MAKING THE RUNNING AGAINST RHODESIA'S WHITE CONTROLLED ARMY.

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT POINT ABOUT THE ZIPA DECISION--ANNOUNCED OVER MOZAMBIQUE RADIO ON MONDAY--IS THAT THE GUERRILLA ORGANIZATION HAS DECIDED TO PLAY A POLITICAL ROLE. FOUNDED LAST YEAR BY GUERRILLAS FROM THE TWO FORMER MAIN NATIONALIST PARTIES OF ZAPU AND ZANU TO ATTEMPT TO COORDINATE GUERRILLA STRATEGY IN THE FACE OF THE ACUTE POLITICAL RIVALRIES BETWEEN THE NATIONALIST FACTIONS, ZIPA HAS SO FAR ESCHEWED A POLITICAL ROLE, AGREEING TO LEAVE THE POLITICAL FUNCTION TO KNOWN NATIONALIST LEADERS.

BUT AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE HAS PROGRESSED--AND HAS SHOWN THOSE POLITICAL DIVISIONS TO BE AS DEEP AS EVER--ZIPA, FROM ITS MOZAMBIQUE BASE, HAS BEEN MAKING AN INCREASING NUMBER OF POLITICAL STATEMENTS INDICATING ITS IMPATIENCE WITH ALL THE AFRICAN DELEGATIONS IN GENEVA. LAST WEEK IT ATTACKED THE SO-CALLED REPRESENTATIVES OF ZIMBABWEANS' AS BEING VIRTUAL TOOLS OF "IMPERIALISTS AND THEIR RACIST ALLIES" AND ACCUSED THEM OF WANTING POWER ONLY FOR THEMSELVES.

MONDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT, BROADCAST BY MOZAMBIQUE RADIO

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SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OIC-02 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DHA-02 /106 W

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P R 011343Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8303

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

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IN A SPECIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE SERVICE FOR RHODESIA, DECLARED THAT THE "TOP LEVEL DELEGATION" WHICH ZIPA WAS SENDING TO GENEVA WOULD GO "NOT AS PART OF ANY POLITICAL FACTION" BUT AS THE REPRESENTATIVES "OF ALL ZIMBABWEANS." THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THE ZIPA ACTION ARE CONSIDERABLE. FIRST, ITS POLICY IS MUCH MORE RADICAL THAN ANY OF THE NATIONALIST DELEGATIONS NOW IN GENEVA. AS THE MOZAMBIQUE RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT PUT IT, THE PRESENCE OF A ZIPA DELEGATION IN GENEVA SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN AS ABANDONMENT OF "OUR PRIMARY STRATEGY OF ARMED STRUGGLE WHICH IS THE ONLY VIABLE WEAPON WITH WHICH ZIMBABWEAN OBJECTIVES CAN BE TOTALLY REALIZED."

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THIS WAS "THE DESTRUCTION OF THE RACIST, SETTLER, COLONIAL MINORITY REGIME AND THE CREATION UPON ITS RUINS OF A GENUINE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY....UNTIL SUCH TIME AS THE IMPERIALIST AND THEIR RACIST ALLIES HAVE UNCONDITIONALLY SURRENDERED POWER, ZIPA WILL FIGHT FOR THE REALIZATION OF THIS GOAL TO THE BITTER END."

SECOND, THE ZIPA STATEMENT IS--AND CERTAINLY THE ARRIVAL OF A ZIPA DELEGATION WOULD BE--A DIRECT CHALLENGE TO INDIVIDUAL NATIONALIST LEADERS NOW IN GENEVA, IN PARTICULAR, TO MR. ROBERT MUGABE.

MR. MUGABE'S PRESENCE AT THE CONFERENCE, AND HIS ALLIANCE WITH MR. JOSHUA NKOMO, WHO ALL OBSERVERS AGREE COMMANDS A COMPARATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF GUERRILLAS, IS ALMOST ENTIRELY DUE TO HIS CLAIM TO REPRESENT ZIPA.

THAT ZIPA LEADERS ARE NOW MAINTAINING THAT NO NATIONALIST POLITICIAN REPRESENTS THEM IS A CLEAR REBUFF TO MR. MUGABE, WHOSE POSITION AT THE CONFERENCE IS THEREBY GREATLY UNDERMINED.

THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THAT COULD BE SIGNIFICANT. THE FRONTLINE AFRICAN PRESIDENTS HAVE SUPPORTED THE MUGABE NKOMO ALLIANCE OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IN THE BELIEF THAT BY DOING SO THEY WOULD, IF AND WHEN A SETTLEMENT IS REACHED AT GENEVA, BE ABLE TO SELL IT TO THE GUERRILLAS. UNTIL THE ZIPA DELEGATION ACTUALLY ARRIVES IN GENEVA, THE PRECISE EFFECTS OF MONDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT CANNOT BE JUDGED. BUT IN BROAD TERMS ZIPA'S STAND CAN ONLY THROW MORE DOUBTS ON THE CHANCES OF THE CONFERENCE SUCCEEDING IN BRINGING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA. END TEXT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, SELFDETERMINATION, DEPENDENCIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON19361
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760445-0099
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761283/aaaacujc.tel
Line Count: 189
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: wolfsd
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 MAY 2004 by hattaycs>; APPROVED <11 AUG 2004 by wolfsd>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE BY BRIDGET BLOOM APPEARED IN THE DECEMBER 1 EDITION OF THE FINANCIAL TIMES UNDER TH
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, RH, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006